complaint from the consumers in regard to presence of certain aflatoxin in the HPS groundnut and certain acids in certain other types of oilseeds. We have taken corrective steps The use of DDT and BHC has been banned in the production of oilseeds and we hope that with these measures taken, it would be possible for us to get back the traditional market and the new market which we had. But, in this connection, you will have to keep in view that India is not a traditional exporter of oilseeds except in these limited areas because till recently, India was a major importer of edible oils because there was a big gap between the demand and the supply. However, fortunately, and it goes to the credit of our farmers, we are bridging that gap safely and very soon India may emerge as near self-sufficient in oilseed production.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Sir, it has been stated by the Government that one of the reasons why our exports have gone down is the use of insecticides which have been banned outside. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is finding alternative insecticides in place of banned insecticides; whether research is going on to provide insecticides which are not banned in other countries so that the oilseeds can be exported.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have already replied that we have decided to put a ban on DDT and some other insecticides which are objected to and other substitutes like pesticides have been used.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Mr. Vice-Chairman, we were exporting castor seeds and castor-oil. Some years back CCA was given to the exporters but suddenly it has been stopped by the Commerce Ministry and their cases are yet pending with the Commerce Ministry. I would like to know whether the Government is considering their cases and whether they will be encouraged to export castor seeds and castor-oil.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, the question relates to the export of certain oilseeds and according to our Trade Policy, depending on various factors, particularly the local conditions and certain other issues, sometimes restrictions are being imposed on the export and import of certain individual items.

श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल : मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने एक्सपोर्ट घटने के जो कारण बताए हैं यह आपकी जानकारी में कब आए और इनको दूर करने की क्या कोशिश की गई ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It is getting reflected in the figures which we are getting from our Export Promotion Councils, and the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

कोयला क्षेत्र की अप्रयुक्त उत्पादन-क्षमता

*367. **श्री वीरेन जे. शाह** †

श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में देश में कोयले के मूल्यों में 12 प्रतिशत वृद्धि किए जाने के बावजूद कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड एक लाभकारी प्रतिष्ठान के रूप में कार्य नहीं कर पाएगा;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में कोयला क्षेत्र की उत्पादन क्षमता का एक बड़ा भाग अप्रयुक्त पड़ा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह अप्रयुक्त क्षमता कितनी है; और

(घ) उत्पादन-क्षमता का पूरा-पूरा उपयोग न कर पाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. As in 1991-92, working results of Coal India Limited (CIL) are

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री वीरेन जे. शाह द्वारा पूछा गया ।

expected to show profits during the current year 1992-93 also.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The production capacity of mines in Coal India Limited is not lying untapped. There have been continuous improvements in capacity utilisation in the mines of CIL. According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, the capacity utilisation in terms of coal production was 89% and 91% respectively during 1990-91 and 1991-92. This is expected to increase to around 92% during 1992-93.

While overall capacity utilisation is considered satisfactory, capacity utilisation of mines located in Eastern Region is affected due to inadequate and interrupted power supply and exhaustion of coal reserves in old mines.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, this has to be seen in the context of two Government statements. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a report that appeared in the *Telegraph*, Calcutta, on 8th May, 1992 in which Mr. Sailesh Kumar Lall, the previous Coal Secretary, said... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He is still the Secretary.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He is still the Secretary. O. K. He said, "In spite of an investment of Rs. 4,500 crores since 1974-75 stagnancy in the underground coal production is causing concern and technology is missing." He attributed dismal growth of the industry to inadequate utilisation of machines etc. Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is showing a bit of complacency. In that context and in relation to another report that has appeared recently—that there is a likelihood that the country may have to import seven million tonnes of coal during 1992-93—is the hon. Minister satisfied with the performance of the Coal India Ltd. that he has mentioned in this statement ? Is its performance satisfactory ? Has it shown a marked improvement since last year ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as underground mining is concerned, it is true that we are not as successful as we should be. When I started working in this Department, Sir, I found that the emphasis was more on open-cast mining. In fact, on open-cast mining it is 70 per cent and on underground mining it is 30 per cent while in other advanced countries it is just the opposite. So I have started making enquiries. It appears that through good quality coal is available in the underground mines, because of the increasing indigenous demand for various grades of coal and for meeting that demand, the policy was to go in for open-cast mining. For improving the quality of coal I am having meetings with the officers so that if required, the emphasis is shifted from open-cast mining to underground mining. The answer given here is correct because the question was, whether despite the 12 per cent increase in coal prices, CIL would not be in a position to become a profitable establishment.

With 12% increase I find from calculations that Coal India, last year and this year also, will make profit. It is not the profit of one year. It is the profit of two consecutive years. Therefore, there is a possibility of a turn-round and the Coal India will be making profit this year. That is why... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : I would like to know whether the interest and depreciation cost is taken into consideration.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Yes Sir, this profit is after taking all matters into consideration. The hon. Member will see that we have given the working results which show the profits. We have not yet come to a definite conclusion how much it will be, but there will be profit.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : My second supplementary also refers to the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March 1993, to Starred Question No. 90 where the hon. Minister has stated that efforts were made to redeploy the surplus manpower. There is an estimated 14,000 to 25,000 surplus labour. It is also one of

the factors causing problems. I am not suggesting to get rid of them. But in the context of 4 billion tonnes of coking coal reserve identified by the Central Mining and Planning Institute, what are the plans now made to make use of this coal, reduce the imports and use effectively the surplus labour and machinery ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : So far as the surplus labour, the workforce which is becoming surplus, is concerned, just because of exhaustion of a particular mine not a single labour was kept idle. What CIL are doing is that they open new mines so that the surplus workmen are taken to the new mines. So far as the import of coal is concerned, we have made a calculation. We will be going in for better wrades of coal from good mines, particularly Jharia and others, and we are optimally utilising our machineries, installing pit-head handling plants, weigh bridges, etc. In fact, it is one of the factors—utilising them for two years consecutively—which enable CIL to make profit. By March 1994 they will be able to cover 80 per cent of the area by utilising coal-head handling plants, modern equipment and weighing machines resulting in better performance and better quality of coal. Therefore, by mining better grade coal as well as by improving existing infrastructure we will be able to give quality coal and reduce import. That is the assurance given to the Government by the Coal India Limited.

Increase in Prices of Tea

*368. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA†

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the prices of leaf tea; and

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Satya Prakash Malviya.

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard, stating its likely impact on the domestic consumers and on the export of Indian Tea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The prices of tea are not fixed by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : सभापति जी, क्या मंत्री जी रोह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अभी हाल में जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है, इसके बाद से खुले बाजार में या सरकार की जो कन्जूमर्स सोसायटीज हैं, वहां चाय की पत्ती के दाम बढ़ गए हैं ?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, as far as the post-Budget scenario is concerned, I don't know.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : I am furnishing the information. Kindly check it up.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERPEE) : You will not get the reply as the time is going to be up. Let me reply to the question. This year production has gone down as compared to the last year. There would be a question of demand and supply position in the market. In fact, this year it has been 38 million kilograms less as compared to the previous year. In the previous year it was 742 million kilograms. This year it is 704 million kilograms. As far as the Government is concerned, we cannot control the prices of tea, either of tea leaf or of tea bags. Normally it has been determined by the market forces through various auction centres and to an extent the demand and supply has some relevance to this. At this stage this is the information that I can give to the hon. Member.